

REMARKS

This Amendment cancels claims 11-14 and 16-18 and amends claims 1 and 15 in accordance with the original disclosure. Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found, for example, in canceled claim 11. Claims 1-10, 15, and 19-22 remain in this application.

Allowed Claims

Claims 6, 7, and 19-22 have been allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph six (6) of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 11-18 contain allowable subject matter.

As set forth above, Applicants have cancelled allowable claim 11 and have added the limitations therefrom into independent claim 1.

Therefore, as discussed below, claim 1 (and claims 2-5, 8-10, and 15 that depend therefrom), are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 8-10 stand rejected for obviousness over the teachings U.S. Patent No. 6,446,758 to Schatz in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,164,396 to Matsufuji. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 stand rejected for obviousness over the teachings of EP1260477 A1 in view of Matsufuji.

As set forth above, Applicants have canceled allowable claim 11 and have added the limitations therefrom into independent claim 1. As noted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action and also the previous Office Action of May 5, 2006, the structure of the adapter unit (for example in claim 11) is patentable over the prior art of record. Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

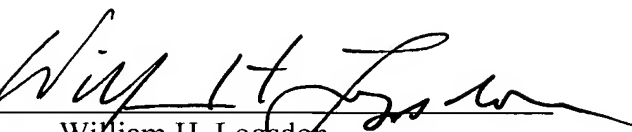
Claims 2-5, 8-10, and 15 depend from and add further limitations to claim 1. Since these claims depend from a claim believed to be in condition for allowance, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/735,245
Paper Dated: January 24, 2007
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of October 5, 2006
Attorney Docket No. 5329-032165

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-5, 8-10, and 15 and allowance of all of claims 1-10, 15, and 19-22 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By 
William H. Logsdon
Registration No. 22,132
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818
Telephone: (412) 471-8815
Facsimile: (412) 471-4094
E-mail: webblaw@webblaw.com